

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Stalingrad Oblast)

DATE DISTR. 19 August 1955

SUBJECT Highway Bridge Over the Volga-Don Canal
Near Krasnoarmeysk

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1

DATE OF
INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. ✓

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COUNTRY	USSR	REPORT	
TOPIC	Construction of a Highway Bridge Over the Volga-Don Canal near Krasnoarmeysk		
			25X1
EVALUATION		PLACE OBTAINED	
			25X1
DATE OF CONTENT			
DATE OBTAINED		DATE PREPARED	12 July 1955
			25X1
REFERENCES			
PAGES	2	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	
			25X1
REMARKS			
			25X1

1. In July 1952, a new highway bridge over the Volga-Don Canal was nearing completion. The bridge was located about 20 km south of Stalingrad, about 600 meters east of the locality of Krasnoarmeysk, and 300 meters south of Canal Lock I. The bridge was a steel plate girder structure resting on two piers. Bridge plans indicated that the structure was 198 meters long and 22 meters wide. The road bed had a width of 18 meters and each of the two sidewalks was 2 meters wide. The surface of the roadway consisted of reinforced concrete. The two bridge piers were erected on the banks of the canal. The abutments of the structure were 46 meters away from the piers. The web girders were 700 mm high and 40 to 50 mm thick. The individual girders were welded together by means of three or four steel plates each 12 mm thick. The bridge was about 18 meters above the level of the canal, the depth of which was 3.2 to 3.4 meters between Lock I and Lock II. At the bridge site, the canal was 106 meters wide. The banks of the canal bed were reinforced by concrete. The superstructure of the bridge consisted of eight steel girders interconnected by cross members. The concrete road bed was 40 cm thick and was topped by an asphalt layer 5 cm thick. According to Soviet workers, the bridge had a load capacity of 80 to 100 tons. After July 1952, the structure was guarded by MVD personnel.
2. The Volga-Don Canal is said to be provided with 13 locks by means of which the difference of 88 meters existing between the levels of the Volga and Don Rivers is overcome. Four locks have been installed to overcome the ridge of hills following the western bank of the Volga River. Fellow PWs mentioned that hydro-power plants had been erected along the course of the canal. In the night of 31 May / 1 June 1952, the canal was filled with water. In early June 1952, a flotilla of 7 to 9 motor torpedo boats for the first time passed through the canal, allegedly on its way from the Caspian Sea to the Black Sea. In early 1952, a Stalin monument was erected at the entrance of the canal near Krasnoarmeysk. In June 1952, about 300 PWs were still working on the erection of a triumphal arch spanning the canal. A light house was under construction on an island on the Volga River located opposite the mouth of the canal.

Comment. The present report must be received with reservation, because it apparently also contains doubtful data. In the 5 May issue of the Listener,

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an official publication of the BBC, London, the width of the Volga-Don-Canal is given at about 50 meters. According to Soviet press reports, the last 8-km stretch of the Canal before its junction with the Volga River uses the lower course of a river, which may well be 106 meters wide. In this case, it would appear doubtful, why the bed of the canal was concreted at the site of the bridge. Some of the data mentioned for the bridge are probably incorrect. *W*

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Near Krasnoarmeysk

NO. OF PAGES : 3

bridge is probably in east Germany

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REPORT

TOPIC Construction of a Highway Bridge Over the Volga-Don Canal near Krasnoarmeysk

EVALUATION

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